

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please replace the claims with the following listing of claims.

What is Claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A call setting method for a network system, the network system including a first line switching network as a line switching network on a call-out side, a first gateway connected with the first line switching network, an internet protocol (IP) packet network connected with the first gateway, second gateways respectively connected with the IP packet network, and a second line switching network as a line switching network on a call-in side connected with each of the second gateways, said method comprising:

the first gateway, when a call is set between the first line switching network and the second line switching network through the IP packet network, receiving a call setting message from the first line switching network;

the first gateway transmitting a call-in enable/disable inquiry message to the IP packet network to select one of the second gateways which can communicate the call setting message from the first gateway to the second line switching network[[;]], the call-in enable/disable inquiry message is received by ~~at least one~~ each of the second gateways through the IP packet network;

each of the second gateways when receiving the call-in enable/disable inquiry message, judging whether the second gateway itself can communicate the call setting message to the second line switching network so that each of the second gateways transmits a call-in enable/disable inquiry response message to the first gateway only when it is judged that the second gateway itself can communicate the call setting message to the second line switching

network, the call-in enable/disable inquiry response message is received by the first gateway through the IP packet network; and

the first gateway selecting one of the second gateways ~~transmitting that~~ corresponds to a source of the received call-in enable/disable inquiry response message, and ~~transmitting to transmit~~ the call setting message to the selected second gateway.

2. (Previously Presented) A call setting method for a network system according to claim 1, wherein the first gateway selects one of the second gateways corresponding to a source of the call-in enable/disable inquiry response message arriving at the first gateway first.

3. (Previously Presented) A call setting method for a network system according to claim 1, wherein the first gateway multicasts the call-in enable/disable inquiry message toward the second gateways;

each of the second gateways participates or leaves with respect to a multicast group for receiving the multicast call-in enable/disable inquiry message, dynamically; and

the multicast call-in enable/disable inquiry message is given only to each of the second gateways which is participating in the multicast group.

4. (Previously Presented) A call setting method for a network system according to claim 3, wherein each of the second gateways leaves from the multicast group if the second gateway itself cannot communicate the call setting message from the first gateway to the second line switching network.

5. (Previously Presented) A call setting method for a network system according to claim 3, wherein each of the second gateways participates in the multicast group if the second gateway itself can communicate the call setting message from the first gateway to the second line switching network.

6. (Previously Presented) A call setting method for a network system according to claim 1, further comprising:

the first gateway, when the first gateway cannot receive the call-in enable/disable inquiry response message from all the second gateways, transmitting the call setting message to a third gateway, the third gateway linking the IP packet network and a third line switching network, the third line switching network is connected to the second line switching network;

the third gateway, when receiving the call setting message from the first gateway, transmitting the call setting message to the third line switching network; and

the third line switching network, when receiving the call setting message from the third gateway, transmitting the call setting message to the second line switching network.

7. (Previously Presented) A call setting method for a network system according to claim 1, further comprising:

the first gateway, when the first gateway cannot receive the call-in enable/disable inquiry response message from all the second gateways, transmitting the call-in enable/disable inquiry message to said IP packet network, the call-in enable/disable inquiry message is received by at least one third gateway, each of which is connected to the IP packet network, through said

IP packet network, each third gateway linking the IP packet network and a third line switching network, the third line switching network is connected to the second line switching network;

each of the third gateways when receiving the call-in enable/disable inquiry message, if the third gateway itself can communicate the call setting message from the first gateway to the third line switching network, transmitting a call-in enable/disable inquiry response message to the first gateway;

the first gateway selecting one of the third gateways transmitting the call-in enable/disable inquiry response message, and transmitting the call setting message to the selected third gateway;

the selected third gateway, when receiving the call setting message from the first gateway, transmitting the call setting message to the third line switching network; and

the third line switching network, when receiving the call setting message from the third gateway, transmitting the call setting message to the second line switching network.

8. (Previously Presented) A call setting method for a network system according to claim 7, wherein the first gateway multicasts the call-in enable/disable inquiry message toward the third gateways;

each of the third gateways participates or leaves with respect to a multicast group for receiving the multicast call-in enable/disable inquiry message, dynamically; and

the multicast call-in enable/disable inquiry message is given only to each of the third gateways which is participating in the multicast group.

9. (Previously Presented) A call setting method for a network system according to claim 1, wherein the first gateway unicasts the call setting message to a specific gateway, which is one of the second gateways, through said IP packet network; and

thereafter, when the specific gateway cannot communicate the call setting message to the second line switching network, the first gateway multicasts the call-in enable/disable inquiry message to the IP packet network.

10. (Previously Presented) A call setting method for a network system according to claim 1, wherein when the first gateway receives the call setting message from the first line switching network, the first gateway selects either unicasting the call setting message to a specific gateway, which is one of the second gateway, or multicasting the call-in enable/disable inquiry message to the IP packet network.

11. (Currently Amended) A gateway connected to a first line switching network as a line switching network on a call-out side, and connected to other gateways through an internet protocol (IP) packet network, each of the other gateways is connected to a second line switching network as a line switching network on a call-in side, said gateway comprising:

a receiving unit, when a call is set between the first line switching network and the second line switching network, receiving a call setting message from the first line switching network;

an editing unit editing, when the call setting message is received by said receiving unit, a call-in enable/disable inquiry message;

a transmitting unit transmitting the call-in enable/disable inquiry message to the IP packet network, the call-in enable/disable inquiry message is received by ~~at least one~~ each of the other gateways through the IP packet network;

a unit to receive a call-in enable/disable inquiry response message, the call-in enable/disable inquiry response message is transmitted from each of the other gateways, which can communicate the call setting message from said gateway to the second line switching network when receiving the call-in enable/disable inquiry message;

a unit selecting one of the other gateways corresponding to a source of the call-in enable/disable inquiry response message arriving at said gateway first; and

a unit transmitting the call setting message to said one of the other gateways which is selected.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A gateway according to claim 11 further comprising:

a table for storing a multicast address; and

a reading unit reading out a multicast address corresponding to a call setting message, which is received from the first line switching network, from said table, wherein said editing unit edits an IP packet with the call-in enable/disable inquiry message, which is set, as a destination address, the read out multicast address, and

said transmitting unit transmitting the edited IP packet to the IP packet network so that the call-in enable/disable inquiry message is received at least one of the other gateways.